

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
MED-QUEST DIVISION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Pursuant to sections 91-3 and 92-41, Hawaii Revised Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Department of Human Services will hold a public hearing to consider proposed amendments to and repeal of existing rules, and the adoption of new rules of the Med-QUEST Division for the purpose of conforming to State and Federal Statutes.

The proposed amendments are based on State and Federal laws. Brief descriptions of the proposed changes are listed below.

**CHAPTER 17-1709 – COBRA PREMIUM REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**

Chapter 17-1709 was adopted by the Governor who exercised his emergency powers granted by Act 15 of the Third Special Session of the 2001 Legislature. Section 10 of Act 15 repeals the Governor's emergency powers effective April 30, 2002, and, as of that date, terminates any rules adopted with the Governor's exercise of those powers. Chapter 17-1709 is repealed effective April 30, 2002.

**CHAPTER 17-1709.1 – COBRA PREMIUM REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**

Chapter 17-1709.1 is based substantially upon chapter 17-1709 that was originally adopted through emergency powers exercised by the Governor in accordance with Act 15, Third Special Session, 2001 Legislature. Section 10 of Act 15 repeals all provisions exercised by the Governor. Chapter 17-1709.1 is now being adopted in accordance with Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

This chapter establishes the COBRA Premium Reimbursement (CPR) program described in Session Laws Hawaii 2001, Third Special Session, Act 6. The CPR program is a temporary program that provides reimbursement of COBRA premiums to individuals who lost their employer-sponsored health insurance coverage due to loss of employment or the reduction in work hours resulting from the economic downturn caused by the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, and who are eligible to participate in the program.

The CPR program provides reimbursement of \$125 per month for single persons and \$315 per month for families or the actual monthly premiums paid for COBRA coverage, whichever is less. Reimbursements are limited to reimbursement of monthly COBRA premiums for up to three months. The program started on January 2, 2002, and shall be terminated as provided by law, and shall be subject to the availability of funds. Applications for participation in this program shall be accepted up to thirty-days prior to the last day that the State Department

of Labor and Industrial Relations will make payments for reimbursement of COBRA premium payments made for coverage after September 11, 2001.

## **CHAPTER 17-1710 – 9-11 NET PROGRAM**

Chapter 17-1710 was adopted by the Governor who exercised his emergency powers granted by Act 15 of the Third Special Session of the 2001 Legislature. Section 10 of Act 15 repeals the Governor's emergency powers effective April 30, 2002, and, as of that date, terminates any rules adopted with the Governor's exercise of those powers. Chapter 17-1710 is repealed effective April 30, 2002.

## **CHAPTER 17-1710.1 – 9-11 NET PROGRAM**

Chapter 17-1710.1 is based substantially upon chapter 17-1710 that was originally adopted through emergency powers exercised by the Governor in accordance with Act 15, Third Special Session, 2001 Legislature. Section 10 of Act 15 repeals all provisions exercised by the Governor. Chapter 17-1710.1 is now being adopted in accordance with Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The 9-11 Net program provides a low-cost alternative medical insurance program for individuals who lose their employer-sponsored health insurance coverage due to loss of employment or the reduction in work hours resulting from the economic downturn caused by the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, and who are eligible to participate in the program. An eligible individual's dependent family members may also be covered under this program.

The 9-11 Net program offers limited medical insurance benefits and does not include dental services. An eligible individual is required to pay a \$63 premium per month per person before benefits are received, and shall be responsible for co-payments for certain kinds of services. The program started on December 4, 2001, and will terminate effective December 21, 2002, unless otherwise provided by law.

A public hearing will be held at the following time and place:

May 21, 2002, Liliuokalani Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Department of Human Services  
Conference Rooms 1 & 2, 1:30 p.m., 1390 Miller Street, Honolulu, Hawaii.

All interested parties are invited to attend the hearing and to state their views relative to the proposed rules either orally or in writing. Should written testimony be presented, five copies shall be made available to the presiding officer at or before the public hearing to:

Department of Human Services  
Med-QUEST Division  
Policy and Program Development Office

P. O. Box 700190  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0190

Residents of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, and Molokai wishing to present oral testimonies may also contact the Med-QUEST Division on the respective islands within seven days before the Honolulu hearing date to have their testimony recorded:

East Hawaii Section  
88 Kanoelehua Avenue, Room 107  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720 (933-0339)

West Hawaii Section  
Lanihau Professional Center  
75-5591 Palani Road, Ste. 3004  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740 (327-4970)

Kauai Section  
4473 Pahee Street, Suite A  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766 (241-3575)

Maui Section  
2145 Wells Street, Suite 103  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 (243-5780)

Molokai Section  
State Civic Center  
65 Makaena Street, Room 110  
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748 (553-1758)

Lanai Unit  
Call toll free 1-800-894-5755

A copy of the proposed rules will be mailed at NO COST to any interested person by requesting a copy by writing to:

Department of Human Services  
Med-QUEST Division  
Policy and Program Development Office  
P. O. Box 700190  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0190

or by calling 692-8132. Neighbor island residents may request a copy of the proposed rules at NO COST by contacting the Med-QUEST Division Sections as noted above.

Proposed rules are also available at the Virtual Rules Center located at the following website:

<http://swat.state.hi.us/VRC.htm>

Special accommodations (i.e. Sign Language Interpreter, large print, taped materials, or accessible parking) can be made, if requested at least seven (7) working days before the scheduled public hearing on Oahu by calling 692-8132. Neighbor island residents needing special accommodations should contact the Med-QUEST Division Sections on the respective islands with their requests.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
SUSAN M. CHANDLER, DIRECTOR